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McNamara Draws Praise From President Johnson Upon Naming of Successor

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara drew praise from President Johnson for his "truly outstanding record of government service" during the President's Jan. 19 news conference in which Clark M. Clifford was nominated to be Mr. McNamara's successor.

Mr. McNamara, who has served as Secretary of Defense for seven years, is expected to leave his present post by March 1 to assume the presidency of the World Bank.

President Johnson pointed out that Mr. McNamara, who was appointed Secretary of Defense by President Kennedy in 1961, "has served as Secretary of Defense longer than any other man has ever served in that job.

"He has had seven grueling years, but with a very highly satisfactory performance to two Presidents, and I think, generally, to the people of this country and to the people of other countries with whom he dealt."

The President said he has never known of "a more competent public official, a more energetic or dedicated one.

"It is with great regret to the President, everyone in the White House and in the Cabinet, that he will be assuming other duties. We are pleased that Washington is not losing him. He will not be far away to counsel with us when appropriate."

Mr. McNamara announced Nov. 29 that he wished to resign as Secretary of Defense to succeed George D. Woods as president of the World Bank.

COMMUNICATIONS BRIEFING—Lt. Gen. John A. Heintges, Deputy Commander-in-Chief for Seventh Army, listens as Maj. Edward H. Miler, Commander, 14th Aviation Company, explains a communications relay panel. Gen. Heintges received a complete briefing during a visit to the 14th Flight Operations Center in Heidelberg, Germany.

Military Family Housing Construction Expected to Top 13,000 Units in 1968

Construction of more than 13,000 military family housing units is expected to be completed this year, according to a Department of Defense report to Congress.

John J. Reed, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Family Housing), said in his mid-January report that 6,700 units authorized under the FY68 Military Construction Appropriation Bill will be built this year. In addition, he said, another 6,500 units, which were deferred from the FY66 program, will be released for construction on a month-by-month basis.

Under the FY68 program, Mr. Reed said, 1,350 units have been allocated for the Army, 2,890 for the Navy, and 2,510 for the Air Force. Total cost for military family housing during FY68 will amount to $135 million, Mr. Reed said, with an average per unit cost in the continental United States of $19,500. No average cost could be given for overseas construction, he said, because construction costs vary abroad.

Mr. Reed said that as of Dec. 15, 1967, 1,101 units under the 1966 program had been released for construction and that the balance would be released in monthly increments. He said his office is reviewing each of the 1966 projects but has found few changes necessary.

INSPECTION TOUR—Lt. Gen. James V. Edmundson, Vice Commander, Pacific Air Forces, is greeted by Col. John M. Patton, Commander, 14th Air Commando Wing, and Lt. Col. Uoc, Commander, 62nd Tactical Wing, Vietnamese Air Force at Nha Trang AB during an inspection tour of installations in Vietnam.

DOD Answers Reports of Shortage Of Combat Aircraft in Vietnam

The Department of Defense has answered reports that the United States is handicapped in Southeast Asia by a lack of combat aircraft.

A DOD statement noted that any such suggestion "is without foundation."

The U.S. has more than 1,000 fighter and attack aircraft—Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps—in Southeast Asia, according to the Defense Department. These aircraft are flying approximately 28,000 sorties a month.

The statement noted that last year U.S. fighter and attack aircraft dropped more than 650,000 tons of ordnance.

Since the beginning of the Vietnam War through Dec. 15, 1967, officials said, U.S. forces have dropped more than 1.7 million tons of bombs in both North and South Vietnam.

In comparison, during the Korean War (1950-53) U.S. forces dropped 635,000 tons of bombs.

During World War II, U.S. forces dropped more than 2 million tons of bombs. Of this number, more than 500,000 were dropped in the Pacific theater. The remainder, more than 1.5 million tons were dropped in North Africa and Europe.

Continuous bombing of North Vietnam began in February 1965, following the Gulf of Tonkin incident in 1964.

The first raids by B-52 Stratofortress bombers in Southeast Asia occurred in June 1965. Since then through December 1967, the B-52s have flown more than 16,000 sorties and dropped more than 387,000 tons of conventional ordnance.

The B-52 missions are flown from Guam and Thailand.

The first U.S. combat unit entering South Vietnam was the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade. Units of the Brigade were assigned to DaNang Air Base.

Services Join in Program To Coordinate Electronics

Army, Navy and Air Force have agreed to join in a program to bring about coordination among the electronics engineering and installation agencies of the military departments.

Under the program, tri-service working groups will seek solutions to problems of mutual concern and develop common installation standards beneficial to all military departments.

Each military department will be delegated detailed procurement, engineering and installation responsibilities for its part in each program of mutual interest.

Officials of the three services feel the increased coordination will prevent duplication and will improve technical management of the programs.

Army Notes Shortage Of Information Officers

The expanded requirements in Vietnam and an increased retirement rate of World War II veterans has created a shortage of trained Army information officers.

Department of Army has notified field units that it has become necessary to fill many information positions with officers from one or two grades lower than required.

Commanders, especially those of low priority units where inexperienced officers must sometimes be appointed to fill information positions, should look to Defense Information School's eight-week basic information officer course for assistance, DA advises.

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Savings Bond Sales Hit New All-Time High

The cash value of Series E and H Savings Bonds set an all-time record high of $51.4 billion at the close of business in December. The Treasury Department reported that Savings Bonds plus Freedom Shares outstanding totaled $51.4 billion.

The sales of Series E Bonds in 1967 came to $4.6 billion, the highest in 22 years. Sales of Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares in 1967 amounted to $5 billion.

Cash sales of E and H Bonds and Freedom Shares for December totaled $370 million, while redemptions, at cost price, were $374 million.

December sales of the new Freedom Shares savings notes were $17 million. Cumulative sales of the new Security—which was first placed on sale last May 1—totaled $80 million.

Freedom Shares are sold only in combination with Series E Bonds to individuals enrolled in a regular purchase plan.

Airborne Command Posts Get New Control System

KC-135 airborne command post aircraft of the Strategic Air Command are being equipped with a new airborne control system capable of launching Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles from underground silos.

Using the new system, Minuteman missiles could be fired by direct electronic signals from a "command post" aircraft without going through the network of underground launch centers or land communications.

This system, according to the Department of Defense, will provide an alternate or backup method of launching "any Minuteman missile which survived a nuclear attack but was no longer under the control of its own or an alternate launch control center."

Operational safeguard procedures for launching of the missiles are the same in the airborne command post as in underground launch control centers.

NEW VICE CNO—Adm. Bernard A. Clarey (right) is sworn in as the Navy's new Vice Chief of Naval Operations by RAdm. Wilfred A. Hearn, Judge Advocate General, as Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius witnesses the ceremony held Jan. 17 in the Pentagon. Adm. Clarey relieved Adm. Horacio Rivero, who has been reassigned as Commander in Chief, Allied Forces, Southern Europe.

New Army Enlisted Promotion Policy Emphasizes Performance, Potential

Army's new accelerated promotion policy for enlisted men is expected to place more emphasis on performance and potential.

Approved last month by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Harold K. Johnson, the policy includes special grade increases for personnel in Vietnam, or those headed there, and increased promotion opportunities for personnel in service schools.

By June 30, the estimated "promotion potential" under the new policy will be about 90,000 men to E-4, 62,000 to E-5 and 15,000 to E-6.

In Vietnam, MACV and USARV may promote to fill vacancies in grades E-4 and E-5 without regard to DA quotas, and all E-2s will be promoted to E-3 when they arrive.

Other commanders in Vietnam are authorized to promote men monthly to grades E-4 through E-6, using a percentage of the authorized strength of each grade to figure the allowance. For E-4 the allowance is four percent of strength, and five percent and two percent for E-5 and E-6.

A similar promotion allowance is authorized for units alerted for Southeast Asia duty and other Army commands, but the percentages are higher for the alerted units and lower for the other commands.

In school commands, commandants can promote some individuals as high as E-6 if they are in MOS or non-MOS producing courses. However, they must meet normal time in grade and service requirements if they are in a non-MOS course.

In some cases, men attending schools to increase their MOS skill level will be promoted to E-4 when they enter the course, and, if the course is 12 weeks or longer, they may be promoted to E-5 when they graduate.

There is a similar policy for candidates attending the Noncommissioned Officers Candidate School's Combat Leadership course, except that five percent of the candidates may be promoted to E-6 when they finish the 12 weeks of formal training.

Navy Receives Proposals On New Fighter Aircraft

Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius has reported the Navy has received four proposals from aviation companies for a new aircraft that incorporates the sweep wings, engines and Phoenix missile capability of the F-111B.

He said the proposals are related to Navy's interest in the VFAX, a fighter attack aircraft which has been under Navy consideration for some time.

In a joint statement with Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, the Secretary said, "The Navy continues to support the ongoing aircraft programs and the funds in the FY69 budget request for production of both F-4 and F-111B aircraft, as well as the VFAX concept."

Secretary Ignatius said the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Company submitted to Navy in late 1967 a design layout of a new fighter aircraft to meet future fleet air defense and fighter interceptor requirements. Later, several other aircraft companies notified Navy they were interested in submitting competitive proposals, he said.

The proposals are a "continuing process and a means by which the Navy has maintained progress in providing superior weapons systems to support the Navy's mission," according to the Secretary.

AF Awards Production Contract For C-10A Light Transport

The Air Force will begin accepting delivery of the first C-10A light transport aircraft late in 1968 as a replacement for older piston-engine passenger and cargo transports—C-47, U-3 and T-29.

Contract for production of the new aircraft, formerly designed CX, was awarded to Handley Page, Ltd. of Hertfordshire, England. Contract calls for 11 of the C-10A and contains options for the purchase of additional aircraft over the next several years.

Navy Notes Increased Appointment Of Minority Group Members to Academy

A significant gain in the appointment of members of minority groups t the Naval Academy has been reported to President Johnson by Charles F Baird, who at the time of the report was Acting Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. Baird said there are 26 Negroes presently enrolled at the Nava Academy, 17 more than the nine who were enrolled in July 1965 when th President expressed concern over th small number of Negro midshipme

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE—Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul H. Nitze (left) congratulates Dr. Frederick Seitz, chairman of the Defense Science Board, after presenting him the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service. Dr. Seitz was cited for outstanding contributions to the Defense Department while serving as Defense Science Board chairman during the past four years.

In a memorandum to Presiden Johnson, released by the Whit House Jan. 13, Mr. Baird said th "Navy is pursuing a vigorous pro gram to inform members of minorit groups of the opportunity availabl to them at the Naval Academy, an to assist them in obtaining nomina tions and qualifying for admission.

Among the steps taken by Nav officials to increase the number Negro applicants for the Nav Academy is the "Operation Informa tion" program in which Negro mi shipmen make presentations concern ing the Academy to schools and ser ice groups in their home commun ties, Mr. Baird said.

In addition, Mr. Baird said, th Naval Academy annually writes t "Negro students who are designate as commended candidates" by the Na tional Achievement Scholarship Pro gram and encourages them to appl for admission.

"The Navy's efforts have result in significant gains," Mr. Baird sai He said 12 Negroes entered th Academy in 1966, and another 12 1967.

Of the 787 prospective candidate from minority groups contacted abou possible admission in the 1968 Pleb class, Mr. Baird said, 23 have receive nominations and another 77 have bee "encouraged to seek nominations."

"Based on last year's experience, substantial number of candidates wi receive nominations in addition t those the Navy has encouraged," th Acting Secretary stated. He said would be impossible to estimate a this time the number of minorit group students who will receive eithe nominations or appointments for th 1972 class.

DOD Amends Program For College Early Release

The early release program for enlisted personnel wishing to enter college has been amended by the Department of Defense to include those seeking a two-year associate degree.

Defense Department officials said this is the only major change to DOD Instruction 1332.15, which had been limited to candidates for a baccalaureate or higher degree.

Instructions on implementation of the change are being written by the individual military departments who administer the program.

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